

# 'BUM' RODGERS AND CUNNIFFE SPLIT AFTER BITTER QUARREL OVER GIRL

## 'Killer' So Bloodthirsty He Shocked Underworld; Deserted by His Pals

The inside story of the attempt to rob the air mail at Hadley Field is told in today's installment of the sensational revelations made by X-4196, intimate of many underworld desperadoes. The writer also reveals the cause of the break between Killer Cuniffie and Bum Rodgers.



### The Truth about "Bum" Rodgers

By X-4196

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#### INSTALLMENT NO. 10

There was considerable hard feeling among certain members of the mob over the killing of Danco. Bum Rodgers, of course, stood with Jimmy Cuniffie, but Illinois Billy and Chi Spud were sore at Cuniffie.

They thought the killing was unnecessary, and when they all got back to Jersey Illinois Billy and Chi Spud quit the gang, and the plans to stick up the various air mail stations which they had investigated were all shot to pieces.

Later on Scar Face Brogan severed his relationship with Bum and Cuniffie and then still later Bum Rodgers and Jimmy had an argument over a girl, and Bum stepped out to shuffle for himself.

#### Shocked Other Crooks

Now Cuniffie had lost all his co-workers by his mad ambition to be known as a leader and a killer and a bad man with a gun. He was "nuts" on the subject of building up a reputation as a hard boiled egg. I don't think he was "all there."

He took a delight in gun fights and he would go out of his way to mix in a gun play. I predict that he'll cash in with a gun in his hand. If the law doesn't kill him, somebody will, because he's a bad hombre, as the Mexicans say.

(Editor's Note—This article was written before Cuniffie's death, at the hands of a pal in Detroit.)

He was alone when he got back to New York. He had to have a pal, so he doubled up with a fellow called "West Side Billy Crowley."

#### Quarreled Often

Now Billy was no "bargain" when it came to putting up any kind of a battle. He was good with his fists and good with his gun. When we heard that he and Cuniffie doubled up all of us were sure that it was only a matter of time until they would be at each other's throat.

We knew that Cuniffie and Crowley would be fighting for leadership. They were too much alike to get on as human beings ordinarily do. I saw very little of them after they doubled up. They made their headquarters in Jersey. I heard they were living in Newark and then later on I heard they had a flat in Jersey City.

I heard nothing definite about them until the murder at Hadley Field, when that man Kearney and his boy were killed. Now I've got the inside details on that job and I'll tell them to you.

#### Bum Not There

First of all, Bum Rodgers was not there when the killing occurred. Bum was to be there and would have been there if Cuniffie and Crowley hadn't "gummed up the works" with that unnecessary gun play.

They had "framed" to stick up the Hadley Field mail truck which carried the mail from Stelton station on the Pennsylvania Railroad

to the air mail field. They had thoroughly looked over this job and in the vernacular of the underworld it was "duck soup." It was rumored that this truck carried hundreds of thousands of dollars.

I heard that Cuniffie had received a tip on this job from some mail truck driver in New York whom he knew intimately. I don't know what there is to this rumor. It may be a correct one and it



Bum Rodgers



Jimmy Cuniffie

may not. I'm simply telling you what I heard. Personally, I think it's a lot of bunk. I have never known a crooked mail truck driver. If they had any information on what the Hadley air mail truck carried they must have picked it up accidentally.

#### Mystery Tip-Off

The only reason I think they might have been tipped off on this matter is that Bum rode the train out of New York on the night the stick-up was to be staged. That train was due at Stelton station at 8.54 o'clock. I have never been able to learn what Bum was really doing in New York that day and why he didn't go to the vicinity of the Hadley air mail field with Crowley and Jimmy Cuniffie. I have heard a lot of stories on what he was supposed to be doing but I don't think much of any of them except one. I will tell it to you just as I heard it.

#### Half-Million Loot

It was said that the mail truck driver in New York had told them that on certain nights the Stelton air mail truck carried a big amount of money and that on other nights it didn't carry as much.

It was rumored that if they caught it on the right night they would get close to \$500,000 in cold cash.

It was said that this truck driver knew what nights the "heavy jack" was going out to Cleveland and other Western cities. It was said that Bum was in touch with this crooked truck driver and that he was to give Bum the tip when he carried the mail to the station.

If everything was all right Bum was to ride the train to Stelton sta-

tion, where he was to meet Cuniffie and Crowley.

The "heavy jack" went out that night to Stelton station. Bum had received the tip from the crooked mail truck driver. Everything was all right. Cuniffie and Crowley were waiting for him.

#### "Breaks" Went Wrong

But the unexpected had happened. It was a bad night. It had been raining. The road between Stelton station and the air mail field, about three miles, was slippery from the rain. It was a foggy night. The car that Cuniffie and Crowley drove got off the road into a ditch. They had to have help to get out of the ditch.

They got the help and proceeded to stall around until the arrival of the train. Then they had more trouble. Several people had seen them. The train was about due and they were in a hurry to get to the station to meet Bum. The air mail truck had passed them on the way to Stelton to get the mail. They were afraid that they wouldn't be able to stage the job that night.

Everything was going against them. The car was in the ditch again. The natives had had a look at them. They were sore.

Where was Bum? Why did everything have to break so bad that night? Now they realized that "the jig was up," and they were like madmen.

Anybody who got in their way was marked for death. Mr. Kearney and his boy got in their way and what happened to them is history; they slaughtered them in cold blood.

They made their getaway to Newark, where they met Bum later on that night. Cuniffie knew that several people had got a good look at him that night and that's why he killed Kearney and his boy.

He wanted to kill Mrs. Kearney, but Crowley wouldn't stand for it. He wanted to kill everybody that saw him. He had lost a \$500,000 "touch." I can imagine how he felt. I know what a tough hombre he was with a gun.

#### Sought Big Pay Rolls

Then came the Elizabeth job. The Elizabeth job was Crowley's. He was the bird who had discovered that several New York banks sent big pay rolls to Elizabeth. The "rap" (identification) had gone abroad that Cuniffie and Bum Rodgers had killed Kearney and his son. Nobody saw them around New York after the Hadley Field murders.

As a matter of fact, nobody in the New York underworld knew that Cuniffie and Crowley were the persons who killed Kearney and his son until after the Elizabeth stick-up. The night of the day of the Elizabeth stick-up I heard that Cuniffie and Crowley and Bum Rodgers and Scar Face Brogan had pulled off the Elizabeth job.

Now in connection with the Elizabeth hold-up, I have heard some very interesting rumors, and I am convinced that the Elizabeth job was, in some ways, an inside job. I am inclined to "fall" for one of these rumors because of the fact that Crowley was spending a lot of time around Elizabeth with a woman who was the sweetheart of a man who was "in right" with the underworld element of Elizabeth.

I know Crowley was spending a lot of time around Elizabeth with this woman because my girl knows the woman I am referring to. Furthermore, Crowley was "picked up" by the Elizabeth police a couple of times. This Elizabeth man, I have heard, is an ex-convict, having done a "bit" in the state prison at Trenton.

Once again the rumor of a crooked post office employee bobs up. It was said that this ex-convict was in close touch with a person who worked in the Elizabeth post office and that he, the post

## Smith Gets Champion Belt; Crowds Cheer at Albany

(Special to The GRAPHIC)

ALBANY, Nov. 6.—Gov. Smith, the champion who didn't fall, came back to Albany last night to the most spontaneous welcoming blare that he has ever received in this city.

Bombs, flags, bands, a welcome committee, placards and a mob of enthusiastic citizens, greeted him as he stepped from his special car, although he had requested that he be allowed to enter the city quietly.



Gov. Smith

Passengers were caught in the jam, and many missed their trains, as the station became as packed as a New York subway.

Mayor Thatcher of Albany greeted New York state's only fourth-term governor and gave him a large green belt, with the word "Champion" sewed upon it in gold letters. The governor donned it and stepped into the crowd. Outstretched hands reached for him everywhere. The band played "Sidewalks," and "The Gang's All Here."

Somebody hoisted a pole with a placard reading: "We'll all see you march on Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D. C., in 1928."

With Mayor Thatcher at his side, the governor started on the mile walk to the mansion. The welcoming committee and a huge crowd fell in behind and paraded to the mansion grounds.

"I'm glad I'm home," said the governor, "where I can stay for a while longer."

office man, was in love with the girl with whom Crowley was intimate. The girl, it may be said right now, didn't know that Crowley was an underworld man. At least I have heard that she didn't. She was not an underworld woman.

Monday, "X-4196," Rodgers' one-time pal, will give further details of the underworld gangsters' activities in their organized war on society.

## Seeking \$35,000 From W.S. Ward On His Estate

Will Walter S. Ward, who disappeared mysteriously last May

as a late aftermath, some persons think, of the slaying of Clarence Peters, and who has been considered "dead," return to face the \$35,000 suit brought by the murdered man's parents?



This question today caused much speculation when the parents of Peters sought compensation for the murder of their son.

Yesterday, as a result, subpoenas were served ordering ten witnesses to appear in the Federal Court here on November 15.

A Westchester county grand jury acquitted Ward of the death of Peters, when the accused claimed that he had shot in self-defense.

To reporters Ward's wife, at her home in Yonkers, said she was unaware of his whereabouts and knew not whether he was alive or dead.

If Ward does not appear, Humphrey J. Lynch, counsel for the dead man's parents, in Haverhill, Mass., said he would take judgment by default and levy against the estate.

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